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ABSTRACT

This booklet is concerned with the issue of school violence. The introductory section provides examples of violence in schools and notes that the Centers for Disease Control state that 1 student in 5 takes a weapon to school and 1 in 20 carries a gun. It is further noted that urban schools in the major metropolitan areas have the greatest risk of school violence and that suburban schools have a higher risk than do rural schools. This instruction is followed by a series of questions and answers about school violence. Questions look at which students are most often the victims of school violence, the relationship between youth gangs and school violence, the relationship between domestic violence and school violence, the relationship between drug use and school violence, how much violence exists in the schools, and why school violence appears to be on the rise. Other questions look at how many students take guns to school, what other kinds of weapons are taken to school, and the roles of the police and the juvenile courts in combating school violence. "Dirt drills," which teach students how to avoid being hit by gunfire, and "target hardening," which involves the use of physical protection devices and the deployment of security personnel are explained. Other sections look at the development of school violence; how educators, parents, and students can combat school violence; ways to increase personal safety at school; and sources to contact about school violence. (NB)

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